

BEVERLY EAVES PERDUE
GOVERNOR



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
20301 MAIL SERVICE CENTER • RALEIGH, NC 27699-0301

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Contact: Chris Mackey
Office: (919) 733-5612

Gov. Perdue Announces ABC System Decision, Serious Concerns over Privatization Proposals

DURHAM – Gov. Bev Perdue announced her desire to keep North Carolina’s current Alcohol Beverage Control system while speaking at the North Carolina Association of County Commissioner’s Legislative Goals Conference in Durham today.

The decision comes after an independent review of the potential profitability of selling North Carolina’s control system, as well as the potential affects such a sale would have on the health and safety of North Carolina residents.

In her remarks today, she said that because of state budget challenges, she has considered revenue options never on the table before, including the potential sale of ABC.

In the past year, a consultant company studied the ABC system and looked at the state’s options.

Following their initial report, Gov. Perdue decided to only consider options that would protect local and state tax revenue, and keep North Carolina as a “control state”. Additionally, the value of the sale would have to significantly offset the risk involved to the state’s health and safety.

Independent revenue estimates for a one-time sale have been valued at about \$300 million.

The only way to raise enough money to make the sale practical for the state – one billion plus dollars – would be to open North Carolina up to liquor sales to a much broader range of stores, from neighborhood drug stores to large retailers.